

Sussex. I worked a number of localities for the larvae in the spring, but from some 200 larvae beaten from Wych Elm only 4 produced *gilvago*, all the rest producing *Amathes circumcellaris*. These *gilvago* are of the usual British form *suffusa*, Pt., incidentally I noted that *Strymon (Thecla) w-album* has a fairly wide area of distribution in West Sussex but is apparently nowhere plentiful.

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### Notes on List of Generic Names of British Butterflies.

By L. G. HIGGINS, F.R.E.S.

The appearance of an official list of generic names of the British Butterflies, accompanied by a check list of species, issued with all the authority of the Royal Entomological Society and compiled by a sub-committee working in the British Museum, is an event of no little importance. It is a welcome step towards securing accuracy and uniformity in Nomenclature, and it is unfortunate that the list was apparently rather hastily compiled, and in several instances the accuracy of the conclusions is at least open to argument. If the List is to fulfil its object, it must be accepted and used by all. It is scarcely fair to expect this unless all sides of the questions are reviewed, if only with the object of disposing of alternative solutions to the many problems.

While an adequate discussion is included in most cases where the choice of a name is determined by the individual opinion of the authors, there are certain questions of fact, which seem to merit more attention, the absence of which must provoke criticism. In the first place the genera of Billberg (*Enum. Ins.* 1820) are included without comment. These names were published entirely without a description, but the list of species following is presumably accepted by the authors of the official List as an "indication" within the meaning of article 25a of the Code. The interpretation of the word "indication" is defined in the first of the "Opinions" rendered by the International Nomenclature Committee, as 1. a bibliographic reference, or 2. a definite citation of an earlier name for which a new name is proposed, or 3. the citation of a type species. In my opinion it is at least doubtful whether Billberg gave an adequate "indication" as construed by the above Opinion.

In the next place, the specification of types of the following three important genera will scarcely be accepted by many entomologists.

#### Genus 4. SATYRUS, Latreille. 1810.

The correct generic type appears to be "le Satyre" of Geoffroy and of the early French authors. This is *P. maera*, Linn. = *Pap. satyrus*, Retzius 1783, which therefore becomes type by absolute tautonymy under Article 30d.

#### Genus 9. ARGYNNIS, Fabricius. 1807.

Latreille in 1810 specified *paphia* and *Melitaea cinxia*. Of these only *paphia* was included in the original genus by Fabricius. The compilers of the new List do not accept Latreille's specifications where more than one species is cited. In this case the correct type of *Argynnis* would be *aglaja* specified by Curtis in 1830 (*Brit. Ent.*)

It is I think unfortunate that the subcommittee did not take the opportunity of defining a little more clearly the limitations of the definition of types in Latreille's *Considérations générales* under Opinion 11 of the Code. In the above instance if *Melitaea cinxia* is not to be taken as included under *Argynnis* it must become a specification of the type of *Melitaea*, F.

#### Genus II. MELITAEA, Fabricius. 1807.

The type was specified as *athalia (leucippe)* by Dalman in 1816. This is in order since *maturna*, Fab. = *athalia*, Rott. et auct., which is therefore a species originally included in the genus. The identity of Fabrician *maturna* is sufficiently clear from the description of the larva given in the *Mantissa Insectorum* and from the figures cited in the *Entomologia Systematica*.

With regard to the specific names introduced no doubt *hyperanthus* is a misprint for *hyperantus*, which is correct. The author of *Papilio flava* 1763 is Pontoppidan and not Brunniche, at any rate I cannot find the name in the works of the latter author. It is extremely doubtful whether *Papilio sylvestris*, Poda should be identified with *linea*, W.V. In my opinion it is either *comma*, L. or *sylvanus*, Esp. and it has been so identified by all previous authors. The description is scarcely sufficient to distinguish between these two, but the fact that the silver spots on the under surface of the hindwings are not mentioned suggests *sylvanus*, as does the very word *sylvestris*, as this insect is much more likely to occur in woodland surroundings. The adoption of this name would overcome the difficulty of finding a substitute for the preoccupied *sylvanus* of Esper, and it is far more suitable than the *venata* of Bremer and Gray, which is doubtfully conspecific with our British skipper.

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## NOTES ON COLLECTING, etc.

UNUSUAL SECOND BROODS IN 1933.—*Minoa murinata*, L. (*euphorbiata*, Schiff.). From eggs laid on 4th June by a female taken in Surrey I bred a single female on 19th August.

*Thera cognata*, Thnbg. A larva beaten from juniper near Ballater in September pupated on 24th October and the imago emerged on 13th November. June is the usual date for larvae in this district and moths appear about the middle of July.—E. A. COCKAYNE, 116, Westbourne Terrace, W.2.

A NOTE FROM TANGIER.—The weather is cold. We have seen on the wing only *Anthocharis belemia*, *Pieris rapae*, and *Rumiccia phlaeas*. At night no moth has come to light.—O. QUERCI, February, 1934.

A NOTE FROM PORTUGAL.—My collection of *Pieris rapae* is a wonderful one. I believe that in Europe it is not possible to get a similar one. Last year I took some thousand specimens in winter, but later I found only 18 in six months and the females laid very few eggs; the larvae were idle and preferred rather to die than eat. In the summer of 1933 I obtained but